

Commission News

www.mswcc.ms.gov

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Readus named NASCA 2018 Outstanding State Conservationist

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — State Conservationist Kurt Readus was surprised at the National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting in San Antonio the week of Feb. 3 when he was named the National Association of State Conservation Agencies 2018 Outstanding State Conservationist.

Readus was caught by surprise because his nomination was a well-kept secret at MSWCC. Mark Gilbert, MSWCC Executive Director and NASCA President, presented the award to Readus at the meeting.

Criteria for the award requires dedication and service to conservation, as well as promoting cooperation and partnership throughout the State.



Mark Gilbert, at left, the MSWCC Executive Director and President of the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA), presents Mississippi State Conservationist Kurt Readus with the NASCA award for 2018 Outstanding State Conservationist. Readus received this award in recognition of his embodiment of Service, Dedication, Cooperation and Partnership in Mississippi.



AT LEFT, MACD President Pete Hunter accepts the National Conservation District Board Member Award from Rhonda Kelsch, NCDEA.



MSWCC Vice Chairman Pete Hunter presents an award to outgoing MSWCC Chairman Buddy Allen at the Jan. 22, MSWCC board of directors' meeting.

PHOTO BY KATHY DOUGAN, MSWCC.



MSWCC Board of Directors at the Hilton-Jackson after the board's Jan. 22, 2019, meeting.

PHOTO BY KATHY DOUGAN, MSWCC

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Clay Burns retires from MSWCC

Clay Burns, a branch director at MSWCC and an employee of the Commission for more than 20 years, retired on Jan. 31, 2019.

During his tenure at MSWCC, Burns served as the coordinator for Envirothon and the MSWCC Youth Camp.

At right, MACD President Pete Hunter presents Burns with a plaque at the MACD Annual Meeting awards banquet on Jan. 24 honoring his service to the Commission.



*Time to
plant some*

TREES

MSWCC Field Reps assist with statewide tree giveaways, sales



MSWCC FIELD REP LANCE FAIRCHILD, ON LEFT, FACING CAMERA, PREPARES PINE SEEDLINGS FOR YAZOO COUNTY'S TREE GIVEAWAY. THE SWCD GAVE AWAY 8,000 TREES AT THE ANNUAL EVENT.



MORE THAN 21,000 TREES WERE GIVEN AWAY AT DESOTO COUNTY'S ANNUAL TREE GIVEAWAY EVENT. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MSWCC FIELD REP ROBIN TISDALE, DISTRICT CLERK BARBARA SOWELL AND MELEIAH TYUS, DESOTO COUNTY INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COORDINATOR.

For more information, please visit www.mswcc.ms.gov, click the left-hand "Current Events" tab, and select "Tree Giveaways, Sales and Special Events." You can also visit MS Forestry Commission's website at <http://www.mfc.ms.gov/mississippi-arbor-day-tree-giveaways-sales-2019>



YOUTH CAMP

JUNE 9-13, 2019 HINDS CC, RAYMOND

Contact your local SWCD for more information.
Registration deadline is April 24 for first-time campers;
May 1 for returning campers

2018 MACD Endowment Fund Scholarship winners honored

JACKSON, Miss. — Six scholarships totaling \$28,000 were presented at the 74th Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts awards luncheon on Jan. 23, 2019, at the Hilton-Jackson.



The scholarship funds are provided by the MACD Endowment Fund. Among those recognized and receiving honors were recipients of the 2018 MACD Endowment Fund Scholarships.

Winners included: Youth Camp Scholarship, Clifton Polk, Simpson County, \$3,000; M.C. Sparks, Jr. Memorial Scholarship, Joseph Blake Bridges, Adams County, \$5,000; Herman L. Dungan Jr. Scholarship, Cristina Elise Griffith, Desoto County, \$5,000; Paul R. Myrick Scholarship, Alyssa Kate McArthur, Quitman County, \$5,000; Jack H. Winstead Scholarship, Jenny Bibb Ryals, Pearl River County, \$5,000; and MACD Endowment Fund Scholarship, Mikayla Ree Shelton, Calhoun County, \$5,000.

PHOTOS BY DEB LOGAN



Herman Dungan and Alyssa Kate McArthur, Paul R. Myrick Scholarship winner



Herman Dungan and Cristine Elise Griffith, Herman L. Dungan Jr. Scholarship winner



Herman Dungan and Joseph Blake Bridges, M.C. Sparks Jr. Memorial Scholarship winner



Jack Winstead and Jenny Bibb Ryals, Jack H. Winstead Scholarship winner



Herman Dungan and Mikayla Ree Shelton, Endowment Fund Scholarship winner



Herman Dungan and Clifton Polk, Youth Camp Scholarship winner.

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A student examines a red fox pelt at the Delta Area Envirothon training workshop.

90 attend Delta Envirothon training workshop Feb. 12

GREENWOOD — On Feb. 12, 90 people attended the Delta Envirothon training at the Area 4 NRCS Office in Greenwood. Trainers included: Wildlife: Alec Conrad, MDWFP; Forestry: Mark Williams, Forester in the Area 4 NRCS Office, and Steve Burgess with Green Trees; Soils: Curtis Godfrey, retired NRCS Soil Scientist; and Aquatics: Debra Veeder, Adopt-A-Stream.

More than 250 participants are expected at the three remaining area training workshops.

IN BRIEF

FEB. 11-15, 2019

Marshall Co. Tree Week events; contact Marie.Alderson@ms.nacdnet.net, or 662-252-1286

FEB. 12, 2019

Walthall Co. SWCD Tree Sale, contact Georgia.Mills@usda.gov, 662-746-8358, x3

FEB. 14, 2019

Lafayette Co. SWCD Tree Giveaway, contact JimmieCarol.Watts@ms.nacdnet.net, 662-234-8701

FEB. 14, 2019

Sunflower Co. SWCD Tree Giveaway, contact Tammy.Kitchens@ms.nacdnet.net, 662-207-8264

FEB. 15, 2019

Clay Co. SWCD Tree Giveaway, contact Calvin Boyd, 662-494-6344, x3.

FEB. 15, 2019

South Area Envirothon Training, Grand Bay NERR, Moss Point

FEB.19, 2019

North Area Envirothon Training, The Gale Center, 2601 Elm St., Hernando

FEB.22, 2019

Coahoma Co. SWCD Tree Giveaway, contact Jeanie Hughes, Jeanie.Hughes@ms.nacdnet.net, 662-624-8727

FEB. 27, 2019

Central Area Envirothon Training, Central MS Research and Extension Center, Raymond

Award winners recognized at the 2019 MACD Annual Meeting

JACKSON — The 2019 MACD Annual Meeting was held Jan. 23-24 at the Hilton-Jackson. Awards were presented on Wed. Jan 23 at the President's Luncheon and also at the Banquet on Thursday evening, Jan. 24.



Miss Nell Hughes was recognized at the Awards Banquet for her induction into the Southeast Region NACD Hall of Fame.



Pete Hunter, left, presents Jim Overby of Smith County with the Commissioner of the Year award.



The Outstanding Wildlife Conservation Award was presented to Halltree Inc. by Lauderdale County SWCD.

PHOTOS BY DEB LOGAN



MACD President Pete Hunter, center, presents MACD Past President Gary Blair, at left, and MACD Board Member Herman Dungan with 2018 President's Awards.



Angel Pilcher, center, won the 2018 Outstanding Teacher of the Year award. Presenting the award, at left, is MACD President Pete Hunter and MACD Second Vice President Anita Cowan.



Lisa Browning of Lamar County won the 2018 District Employee of the Year award. from Pete Hunter, MACD President.



The Georgia-Pacific Environmental Team received the MACD Friend of Conservation Award for 2018.



Pete Hunter and Anita Cowan, at right, present Hanna Hood with the Grand Prize Award for her overall State win in the NACD photo competition.



From left to right, William Jones, Joe Byrd Jr. and Stanley Shannon accept the Outstanding District in Woodland Conservation award for Lauderdale County at the Annual Meeting.